



AMICA International

Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association

Honor Roll

Richard Hageman (1882-1966)

"Songs to Conjure By"

Richard Hageman was the son of Americans but was born in Holland, where he grew up and was trained in music. He first worked as an accompanist to famous singers, but by his mid-twenties had settled in America and became an opera conductor at the Metropolitan Opera and elsewhere. He wrote some operas, and later composed film scores, but he remains best known for his songs, among which "Do not go, my love" is a masterpiece. It sets a poem by Rabindraneth Tagore, and although it may seem to be an aubade (a lover pleading at dawn for the loved one not to depart), others have suggested that it is a parent's plea with a sick child not to die. In either case this song boasts unusual expressive power, achieved through luscious piano textures and harmonies as well as a great care with declamation.